

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
5th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2009 - 3:00 P.M.

The International Bridge Commission met at the above place and date.

Item 1: Call to Order

Fernando Quintana called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Those present were:

Jorge Salom, Vice-Chair - (Mayor John Cook)
Christopher Oliveras – D-2 (Rep. Susie Byrd)
Angel F. Quintana – D-5 (Rep. Rachel Quintana)
Miguel Escoto – D-8 (Rep. Beto O'Rourke)
Lilia Ruiz – D-3 (Rep. Emma Acosta)
Kathleen Walker – D-1 (Rep. Ann Morgan Lily)

ABSENT:

Sergio Chiu - D-4 (Rep. Carl Robinson)
Peta A. Ocegueda – D-7 (Rep. Steve Ortega)
VACANT, D-6 (Rep. Eddie Holguin)

OTHERS PRESENT

Josette Flores, City Attorney
Said Labri Cherif – International Bridges
Eddie Romero - International Bridges
Jane Shang – Deputy City Manager
Bill Molaski – CBP
Robert Andrade – Mayor's Office
Laird Carmichael – Committee on Border Relations
Angie Quintanilla – Committee on Border Relations
Ivan Ramirez – Committee on Border Relations

Introduction of new present IBC members and staff.

Item 2: Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 17, 2009 and June 16, 2009

Motion made by Mr. Quintana, seconded by Mr. Salom and carried to approve the minutes of February 17, 2009 and June 16, 2009

AYES: Ms. Walker, Mr. Olivares, Mr. Escoto, Ms. Ruiz

NAYS: None

Item 3: Bridge Management Report.

Item #A Monthly Traffic and Revenue Report

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif stated that for the month of July 2009, southbound pedestrian traffic has increased compared to last year. Overall revenue is down by 15% and traffic is down. Passenger vehicle traffic is down due to global economic recession and the security situation in Juarez. Parking meter revenue is down a little over 1% due to Downtown construction and removal of some parking meters. The revenue from the parking meters goes to pay for the bonds for the Plaza Theater.

Item #B: Update on Stanton and Santa Fe Improvement Projects

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif commented on the Paso Del Norte Bridge project. Plans are on target for completion in early August. City Council will act on a contract with world renowned Mexican sculptor Sebastian Escultor to design a tall monument to be located in Lion's Placita. The budget has been set at \$300,000. The Stanton and Santa Fe projects will be the start of the "golden horseshoe" which will bring people downtown that may not normally go downtown.

Item #C: Update on New Commuter POE Project

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif commented on the POE project and the status thereof. He stated that members of the community are upset about the project. Congressman Reyes has requested more studies be done regarding having traffic moving faster at existing bridges rather than a new POE but will support City Council. General discussion followed regarding staffing of CBP at bridges and wait times.

Item #D: Update on Zaragoza POE Expansion Project

The Zaragoza POE Expansion project has been put on hold pending the completion of the Master Regional Ports of Entry Operations Study.

Item #E: Update on Statagic Plan for International Bridges

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif stated that 3 bids were received and were rejected.

Item #F FY2010 Budget Report

Pedestrian and vehicle toll rates will increase on September 1, 2009. Parking meter rates will also increase. City Council passed an ordinance to have 7 pedestrian toll free days. IBD will develop a Downtown Parking Management Plan. The Universal Fare Card will be implemented when the Stanton and Paso Del Norte Projects are completed. Budget includes adequate funding for the maintenance and operation of the bridges. Discussion followed regarding parking meter revenue and the fare card and security on the bridges

Item 4: Texas Open Meetings Act Presentation

Presentation was given by City Attorney Josette Flores.

Item 5: Proposal to Combine the International Bridge Commission with the Committee on Border Relations.

Chair Quintana stated that the IBC continue it's monthly meetings until the merger is finalized. Ms. Angie Quintana of the BRC was introduced and discussion followed.

Item 6: 2009 Meeting Schedule, Meeting Topics and Visits to the International Bridges.

Meeting schedule was discussed and Chair Quintana spoke about his visit to the Zaragoza International Bridge.

Item 7: Complaint Hotline for International Bridges.

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif stated that his department was working on the complaint hotline. Discussion followed regarding various situations where hotline was/is needed.

Item 8: OPEN COMMENT PERIOD

There were no open comments.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Approved as to form:

_____ Secretary